# History 2A: World History, Prehistory-1000CE, with Dr. Thompson

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| TA | Kristen Thomas-McGill | Email | kthomasmcgill@ucsb.edu |
| Office | HSSB 3223 | Student Hours | Thursdays 8:00-10:00 am, or by appointment |

### **About Section:**

Section provides us a space in which we can discuss, critically evaluate, and digest the concepts, documents, and facts we encounter in lecture and in the readings. Section is a time to get to know our fellow scholars and listen to, learn from, and help each other. Section is not a lecture class; it allows for activities and small group work. In order for us to work effectively as a section, the following will be expected of everyone:

* Be respectful of your classmates, your time, and your instructors
* Do the assigned readings, do the homework, and attend lecture on Tuesday and Thursday
* Participate by asking questions, interacting with your classmates, and sharing your thoughts appropriately

### **Grading:**

Section accounts for 25% of your grade for History 2A. Grading for section will be broken into three parts:

* **Attendance**: 5% of overall grade for History 2A. Per Professor Thompson’s syllabus, “attendance at section is mandatory and three unexcused absences will result in a 0% section grade.” Please notify me beforehand if you know you will be absent.
* **Participation:** 10% of grade for History 2A. Section is designed to be interactive, and it is essential that you contribute in each of our meetings. Participation includes behavior like raising your hand, contributing to group discussions, asking questions, taking notes, and demonstrating active listening. The best way to earn participation points is to answer (or ask) questions.
* **Homework**: 10% of grade for History 2A. Unless otherwise specified, your homework each week is the same: a written response to questions emailed to you, and a Quote of the Week. See below for more details about the weekly homework. Even if you miss section, your homework for the week is still due.

**Homework Instructions:**

Homework may be handwritten or typed, but it should be submitted (via email or in person) by the end of section. If you miss section, homework is still due, and should be submitted as soon as possible. Your homework for each week will consist of two parts:

1. Response to reading questions: I will email you one or two questions that will ask you to reflect on some aspect of the reading from the week. These questions are meant both to prepare you for the section discussion and to hold you accountable for doing the reading. Each question response should be between 100 and 200 words, and you should make explicit reference to the readings in your response.
2. Quote of the Week (QOTW): Choose one quote from the week’s readings, and write a 100- to 200- word personal reflection on it. Your reflection can contain whatever you want, but past students have used this space to write about how a quotation from the past connects to the present, or how a quote made them feel, or how something in the quote connected to an idea from another class. It’s okay to be a bit informal in this section—sometimes history is funny, or sad, or scary, or downright weird, and this is a good place to acknowledge that.

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**Grading Scale:**

97-100= A+ 93-96= A 90-92= A- 87-89= B+ 83-86 = B 80-82= B-

77-79= C+ 73-76= C 70-72= C- 67-69= D+ 63-66= D 60-62= D-

59 and Below= F

**Grading Appeals:**

You are welcome to appeal an assignment grade, but you must wait 24 hours after receiving the graded assignment back to begin the appeals process. Write a letter explaining why reconsideration is appropriate, attach it to the graded assignment, and give it to me in person. I will review your petition with another TA for History 2A and we will collectively determine whether your grade goes up, goes down, or stays the same.

**Technology Policy:**

Do not vape in class. Cell phones must be silenced or turned off during section. Laptops or tablets may be used in section for class only. Anyone using their device for non-class purposes will receive a 0 in participation for section. Your grade for History 2A will suffer if you choose to misuse technology in this portion of the class.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

“Papers, examinations, laboratory reports, and homework must always be your own work. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion are all forms of academic dishonesty and are violations of the Student Conduct Code. Students found responsible for these violations face possible suspension or dismissal from the University.”—from “Academic Integrity: A Student’s Guide” at http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/AcademicIntegrity.aspx.

Please refer to the section about academic dishonesty on the main class syllabus, which is in effect for work done in or for section. Academic dishonesty will be reported AND will likely cause you to fail the assignment.

### **Writing:**

This class requires one 1,200 to 1,400-word paper, due February 29. Further instructions on this project will be given in lecture, on GauchoSpace, and in later meetings of section. There are three things you can do to set yourself up for good essays: keep up with your reading from the beginning of class; start working on your writing early; and consult with me during student hours to make sure you’re on target.

Please reach out to CLAS for help with paper organization, format, grammar, word choice, etc. Their website is http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu/.

**Accommodations:**

I am happy to accommodate students with disabilities and special life circumstances, but some accommodations (testing arrangements, notetaking, etc.) can only be provided after approval by the Disabled Students Program. For more information, visit the DSP office in the Student Resource Building or at http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu.

### **Getting in Touch:**

Don’t hesitate to contact me! I am here to help you with questions or concerns or to chat about your insights and ideas. Come by my office (HSSB 3223) any time Monday through Friday, as I am often there outside of my guaranteed student hours. You can also reach me by email at the address listed above. I will return all emails received from Monday at 8:00 am through Friday at 5:00 pm within 24 hours. Weekend and holiday emails will be answered on the next working day.

*This syllabus is subject to written or verbal revision at any time.*